

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement**Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**For Six Month Period Ending 05/31/2013

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No.

Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the U.S.A.

5342

- (c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

1334 G Street, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20005

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

- (a) If an individual:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

- (b) If an organization:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C
- ¹
- , state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Position | Date Connection Ended |
|------|----------|-----------------------|
|------|----------|-----------------------|

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Residence Address | Citizenship | Position | Date Assumed |
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|

5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

N/A

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

| Name | Residence Address | Citizenship | Position | Date Assumed |
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
|------|-------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|

(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Position or Connection | Date Terminated |
|------|------------------------|-----------------|
|------|------------------------|-----------------|

(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Position or Connection | Foreign Principal | Date Terminated |
|------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

N/A

II- FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes ☐ No ☐Exhibit B⁴ Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

see attached

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

see attached

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activity" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

| Date | From Whom | Purpose | Amount |
|------|-----------|---------|--------|
|------|-----------|---------|--------|

see attached

\$ 75 750

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Foreign Principal | Date Received | Thing of Value | Purpose |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|

^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

| Date | To Whom | Purpose | Amount |
|------|---------|---------|--------|
|------|---------|---------|--------|

see attached

\$ 74 537

Total

(b) **DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Date | Recipient | Foreign Principal | Thing of Value | Purpose |
|------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|---------|
|------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|---------|

(c) **DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Date | Amount or Thing of Value | Political Organization or Candidate | Location of Event |
|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- ☒ Radio or TV broadcasts ☒ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Motion picture films ☒ Letters or telegrams
☒ Advertising campaigns ☒ Press releases ☐ Pamphlets or other publications ☒ Lectures or speeches
☐ Other (specify) _____

Electronic Communications

- ☒ Email
☒ Website URL(s): www.nkrusa.org
☒ Social media websites URL(s): www.facebook.com
☐ Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- ☒ Public officials ☒ Newspapers ☐ Libraries
☒ Legislators ☒ Editors ☒ Educational institutions
☒ Government agencies ☒ Civic groups or associations ☒ Nationality groups
☒ Other (specify) Embassies, NGOs

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☒ Other (specify) Armenian

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes ☒ No ☐

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)June 10, 2013/s/ Robert AvetisyaneSigned

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

Question 11:

During this 6-month period, have you engaged in any activity for or rendered any service to any foreign principal named in items 7, 8 and 9 of this statement? Yes

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

Contacts

Date: 12/03/12

Contact: B. Hennessey; Legislative assistant, Office of the US Congressman Frank Pallone;

Purpose: discussion of events on Nagorno Karabakh

Contact manner: e-mail/ mail

Date: 12/05/12

Contact: Members of the US Congress: Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Frank Pallone;

Purpose: meeting with the NKR Foreign Minister K.Mirzoyan

Contact manner: office meeting

Date: 12/12/12

Contact: Offices of the US members of Congress Cicilline, Denham, Engel , Eschoo, Pallone, Royce, Sanches, Schiff, Sherman, Speier, and US Senators Menendez and Reed;

Purpose: letters of gratitude for supporting the Congressional event on Nagorno Karabakh; (copies provided in attachment #1)

Contact manner: email / mail

Date: 12/13/12

Contact: Members of the US Congress Reid, Reed, Kerry, Durbin, Blunt, Lugar, Leahy, Levin, Menendez, Schumer, Kirk, Pelosi, Eshoo, Cantor, Speier, Dreier, Hoyer, Pallone, Schiff, Hinchey, Frank, Boehner, Clyburn, Crowley, Sherman, Royce.

Purpose: forwarded New Year congratulatory letters of NKR Parliament Speaker A.Ghulyan (copies provided in attachment #3)

Contact manner: mail

Date: 12/19/12

Contact: OSCE American Co-Chair Robert Bradtke, US State Department;

Purpose: forwarded letter of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan (copy provided in attachment #2)

Contact manner: fax / e-mail

Date: 12/21/12

Contact: US State Department – Secretary Clinton, OSCE US Co-Chairman Bradtke, Office of Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts Jeffrey Hulse ;

Purpose: forwarded New Year letters of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan (copies provided in attachment #2)

Contact manner: fax / e-mail

Date: 02/04/13

Contact: Member of Santa Clara Regional Council, CA, Joe Simitian.

Purpose: developments in and around Nagorno Karabakh
Contact manner: office visit

Date: 02/05/13
Contact: John Kerry, the US Secretary of State;
Purpose: forwarded congratulatory letter of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan
(copy provided in attachment #2)
Contact manner: email / mail

Date: 02/12/13
Contact: Jeffrey Hulse, US State Department's office of Caucasus and Regional Issues;
Purpose: developments in and around Nagorno Karabakh
Contact manner: meeting

Date: 02/12/13
Contact: Members of the US Congress' Appropriations Committee;
Purpose: forwarded letter of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan
(sample letter and the list of recipients is provided in attachment #2)
Contact manner: mail

Date: 03/04/13
Contact: Office of US Congressman Frank Pallone
Purpose: discussion of Congressional event on Nagorno Karabakh
Contact manner: email / phone

Date: 04/12/13
Contact: Offices of Maine State Assembly Members Gattine, Gideon, Hamann
Purpose: forwarded letter of NKR Parliament Speaker A. Ghulyan
(copies provided in attachment #3)

Contact manner: email / phone

Newsletters

(copies provided in attachment #4)

Date: 12/15/12, 12/31/12, 01/15/13, 01/31/13, 02/28/13, 03/15/13, 04/30/13, 05/30/13
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR
Availability: email

Press-releases

(copies provided in attachment #5)

Date: 12/05/12
Subject: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh Mr. Karen Mirzoyan
arrived in Washington, D.C.
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 12/06/12
Subject: Artsakh's Independence Anniversary Marked on Capitol Hill
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 12/06/12
Subject: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Mr. Karen Mirzoyan continued his visit to Washington, D.C.
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 12/10/12
Subject: Artsakh Republic Celebrates 21 Years of Independence and Constitutional Referenda
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 02/20/13
Subject: Karabakh Celebrates Anniversary of National-Liberation Movement
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 04/11/13
Subject: The Maine House and Senate Passed Joint Resolution Supporting the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts
(copies provided in attachment #5)

Date: 01/15/13
Subject: Phone interview to Los Angeles Times
Availability: Electronic version:
<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/jan/16/world/la-fg-wn-global-focus-nagorno-karabakh-20130115>

Date: 03/18/13
Subject: Media Alert: The Fresno Bee Published Article on Artsakh
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 04/16/13
Subject: Media Alert: Foreign Policy Journal Published Article Comparing Dictatorship in North Korea and Azerbaijan
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Registrant's attendance at conferences and forums generally re Nagorno Karabakh and the region

Date: 12/05/12
Event: Event on Nagorno Karabakh.
Location: U.S. Congress;
Keynote Speaker: NKR Foreign Minister Mr. Karen Mirzoyan
Speakers: Senators Jack Reed, Representatives Ed Royce, Frank Pallone, Adam Schiff, David Cicilline, Eliot Engel, Jeff Denham, Linda Sanchez, Armenian Ambassador Tatoul Markaryan.

Date: 03/13/13
Event: Event on Nagorno Karabakh.
Location: U.S. Congress;
Keynote Speaker: NKR Minister of Culture Mrs. Narine Aghabalyan

Speakers: ~~Members of the US Congress~~ Ed Royce, Frank Pallone, Michael Grimm, Adam Schiff, Anna Eshoo, Jackie Speier, David Cicilline; Armenian Ambassador T. Markaryan, NKR Representative R. Avetisyan

Date: 04/02/13
Event: Event "Nagorno Karabakh: Understanding the Conflict 2013";
Location: Johns Hopkins University, SAIS ;
Subject: Discussion of the conflict around Nagorno Karabakh; follow-up to students' visit to the region

Date: 04/05/13
Event: Event "The United Nations and the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict: Back to the Basics";
Location: Jamestown Foundation ;
Subject: Discussion of the conflict around Nagorno Karabakh

Date: 04/17/13
Event: Event "Elections in De-Facto States: Abkhazia, Nagorno Karabakh and Transnistria";
Location: CSIS ;
Subject: Discussion and analysis of electoral processes in Abkhazia, Nagorno Karabakh and Transnistria.

Date: 04/24/13
Event: Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Anniversary;
Location: US Senate;
Speakers: Bob Menendez, Ed Royce, Sheldon Whitehouse, Joe Crowley, Eliot Engel, Michael Grimm, Frank Pallone, Tony Cardenas, David Cicilline, Jim Costa, Anna Eshoo, Scott Garrett, Janice Hahn, Rush Holt, Linda Sanchez, John Sarbanes, Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Jackie Speier, John Tierney, Dina Titus, and Niki Tsongas; as well as Armenian Ambassador T. Markarian and NKR Representative R. Avetisyan.
Attendees: Members of the US Congress, clergy, community representatives. Journalists.

ASchiff

Question 12:

During this 6-month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity as defined below? Yes

Political activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

Contacts

Date: 12/03/12

Contact: B. Hennessey, Legislative assistant, Office of the US Congressman Frank Pallone;

Purpose: discussion of events on Nagorno Karabakh

Contact manner: e-mail/ mail

Date: 12/05/12

Contact: Members of the US Congress: Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Frank Pallone;

Purpose: meeting with the NKR Foreign Minister K.Mirzoyan

Contact manner: office meeting

Date: 12/12/12

Contact: Offices of the US members of Congress Cicilline, Denham, Engel , Eschoo, Pallone, Royce, Sanches, Schiff, Sherman, Speier, and US Senators Menendez and Reed;

Purpose: letters of gratitude for supporting the Congressional event on Nagorno Karabakh; (copies provided in attachment #1)

Contact manner: email / mail

Date: 12/13/12

Contact: Members of the US Congress Reid, Reed, Kerry, Durbin, Blunt, Lugar, Leahy, Levin, Menendez, Schumer, Kirk, Pelosi, Eshoo, Cantor, Speier, Dreier, Hoyer, Pallone, Schiff, Hinchey, Frank, Boehner, Clyburn, Crowley, Sherman, Royce.

Purpose: forwarded New Year congratulatory letters of NKR Parliament Speaker A.Ghulyan (copies provided in attachment #3)

Contact manner: mail

Date: 12/19/12

Contact: OSCE American Co-Chair Robert Bradtke, US State Department;

Purpose: forwarded letter of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan (copy provided in attachment #2)

Contact manner: fax / e-mail

Date: 12/21/12

Contact: US State Department – Secretary Clinton, OSCE US Co-Chairman Bradtke, Office of Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts Jeffrey Hulse ;

Purpose: forwarded New Year letters of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan (copies provided in attachment #2)

Contact manner: fax / e-mail

Date: 02/04/13

Contact: Member of Santa Clara Regional Council, CA, Joe Simitian.

Purpose: developments in and around Nagorno Karabakh

Contact manner: office visit

Date: 02/05/13

Contact: John Kerry, the US Secretary of State;

Purpose: forwarded congratulatory letter of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan
(copy provided in attachment #2)

Contact manner: email / mail

Date: 02/12/13

Contact: Jeffrey Hulse, US State Department's office of Caucasus and Regional Issues;

Purpose: developments in and around Nagorno Karabakh

Contact manner: meeting

Date: 02/12/13

Contact: Members of the US Congress' Appropriations Committee;

Purpose: forwarded letter of the NKR Foreign Minister K. Mirzoyan
(sample letter and the list of recipients is provided in attachment #2)

Contact manner: mail

Date: 03/04/13

Contact: Office of US Congressman Frank Pallone

Purpose: discussion of Congressional event on Nagorno Karabakh

Contact manner: email / phone

Date: 04/12/13

Contact: Offices of Maine State Assembly Members Gattine, Gideon, Hamann

Purpose: forwarded letter of NKR Parliament Speaker A. Ghulyan
(copies provided in attachment #3)

Contact manner: email / phone

Newsletters

(copies provided in attachment #4)

Date: 12/15/12, 12/31/12, 01/15/13, 01/31/13, 02/28/13, 03/15/13, 04/30/13, 05/30/13

Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR

Availability: email

Press-releases

(copies provided in attachment #5)

Date: 12/05/12

Subject: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh Mr. Karen
Mirzoyan arrived in Washington, D.C.

Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 12/06/12

Subject: Artsakh's Independence Anniversary Marked on Capitol Hill

Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 12/06/12
Subject: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Mr. Karen Mirzoyan continued his visit to Washington, D.C.
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 12/10/12
Subject: Artsakh Republic Celebrates 21 Years of Independence and Constitutional Referenda
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 02/20/13
Subject: Karabakh Celebrates Anniversary of National-Liberation Movement
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 04/11/13
Subject: The Maine House and Senate Passed Joint Resolution Supporting the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts
(copies provided in attachment #5)

Date: 01/15/13
Subject: Phone interview to Los Angeles Times
Availability: Electronic version:
<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/jan/16/world/la-fg-wn-global-focus-nagorno-karabakh-20130115>

Date: 03/18/13
Subject: Media Alert: The Fresno Bee Published Article on Artsakh
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 04/16/13
Subject: Media Alert: Foreign Policy Journal Published Article Comparing Dictatorship in North Korea and Azerbaijan
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Registrant's attendance at conferences and forums generally re Nagorno Karabakh and the region

Date: 12/05/12
Event: Event on Nagorno Karabakh.
Location: U.S. Congress;
Keynote Speaker: NKR Foreign Minister Mr. Karen Mirzoyan
Speakers: Senators Jack Reed, Representatives Ed Royce, Frank Pallone, Adam Schiff, David Cicilline, Eliot Engel, Jeff Denham, Linda Sanchez, Armenian Ambassador Tatoul Markaryan.

Date: 03/13/13
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Location: U.S. Congress;
Keynote Speaker: NKR Minister of Culture Mrs. Narine Aghabalyan

Speakers: Members of the US Congress Ed Royce, Frank Pallone, Michael Grimm, Adam Schiff, Anna Eshoo, Jackie Speier, David Cicilline; Armenian Ambassador T. Markaryan, NKR Representative R. Avetisyan

Date: 04/02/13
Event: Event "Nagorno Karabakh: Understanding the Conflict 2013";
Location: Johns Hopkins University, SAIS ;
Subject: Discussion of the conflict around Nagorno Karabakh; follow-up to students' visit to the region

Date: 04/05/13
Event: Event "The United Nations and the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict: Back to the Basics";
Location: Jamestown Foundation ;
Subject: Discussion of the conflict around Nagorno Karabakh

Date: 04/17/13
Event: Event "Elections in De-Facto States: Abkhazia, Nagorno Karabakh and Transnistria";
Location: CSIS ;
Subject: Discussion and analysis of electoral processes in Abkhazia, Nagorno Karabakh and Transnistria.

Date: 04/24/13
Event: Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Anniversary;
Location: US Senate;
Speakers: Bob Menendez, Ed Royce, Sheldon Whitehouse, Joe Crowley, Eliot Engel, Michael Grimm, Frank Pallone, Tony Cardenas, David Cicilline, Jim Costa, Anna Eshoo, Scott Garrett, Janice Hahn, Rush Holt, Linda Sanchez, John Sarbanes, Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Jackie Speier, John Tierney, Dina Titus, and Niki Tsongas; as well as Armenian Ambassador T. Markarian and NKR Representative R. Avetisyan.
Attendees: Members of the US Congress, clergy, community representatives. Journalists.

Question 14 (a):

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in items 7, 8 and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interest of any such principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes

If yes, set forth in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.

The amount listed below is the total of such financial support and contributions to the NKR Office from all sources for the reporting period (12/01/2012 - 05/31/2013).

| Name | Address line 1 | Address line 2 | Amount |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| NKR Government | 28 Azatamartikneri St. | Stepanakert, NKR, Armenia | \$75,750.00 |
| Total | | | \$75,750.00 |

Question 15 (a):

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal of such monies, including transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Foreign Principal: The Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

The following is a breakdown of those expenses incurred by the NKR Office in the USA during the reporting period (12/01/2012 - 05/31/2013).

| NN | Purpose | Amount |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Entertainment/meals: No U.S. officials or media representatives were guests | \$3,012 |
| 3 | Health Insurance | \$4,213 |
| 4 | Living expenses | \$39,216 |
| 6 | Car rent/related expenses | \$3,759 |
| 7 | Office Supplies | \$2,144 |
| 8 | Parking | \$622 |
| 9 | Postage/Courier | \$117 |
| 10 | Rent Housing Expats | \$16,391 |
| 11 | Telephone / Internet | \$2,948 |
| 12 | Travel within US & International: No U.S. officials or media were quests | \$1,996 |
| 13 | Website/Email | \$119 |
| | | |
| | Total operating expenses and other disbursements: | \$74,537 |



OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA

ԱՄՆ-ում ԼՂՀ մշտական ներկայացուցչություն

December 12, 2012

The Honorable David Cicilline
United States House of Representatives
128 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cicilline:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance and thoughtful remarks on December 5, 2012 at the Capitol Hill event celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
NKR Representative to the United States

This material is distributed on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic is registered with the U.S. Government under the Foreign Agent Registration Act. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Jeff Denham
United States House of Representatives
1605 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Denham:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance the December 5, 2012 event at the Capitol Hill celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

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Sincerely,

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Eliot Engel
United States House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Engel:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance and thoughtful remarks on December 5, 2012 at the Capitol Hill event celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
241 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance and thoughtful remarks on December 5, 2012 at the Capitol Hill event celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
NKR Representative to the United States

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
237 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pallone:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for organizing and leading the December 5th event at the Capitol Hill celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence, as well as for your thoughtful remarks during the event. I also want to thank you for taking the time to meet with the NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are grateful for your continued efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as promoting the universal values of human rights and democracy.

As co-chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your exceptional leadership is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

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NKR Representative to the United States

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Ed Royce
United States House of Representatives
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Royce:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your support in organizing the December 5th event at the Capitol Hill celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We are grateful for your continued efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as promoting the universal values of human rights and democracy.

As co-chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, your exceptional leadership is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

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NKR Representative to the United States

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Linda Sánchez
United States House of Representatives
2423 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sánchez:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance the December 5, 2012 event at the Capitol Hill celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States House of Representatives
2411 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schiff:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance and thoughtful remarks on December 5, 2012 at the Capitol Hill event celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We also would like to appreciate for taking the time to meet with the NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Brad Sherman
United States House of Representatives
2242 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sherman:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance and thoughtful remarks on December 5, 2012 at the Capitol Hill event celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence. We also would like to appreciate for taking the time to meet with the NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan during his recent visit to Washington, DC. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

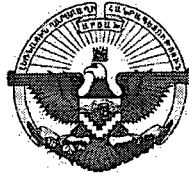
Your exceptional and outstanding leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Jackie Speier
United States House of Representatives
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Speier:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 21 years of Karabakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 5, 2012 special celebration at the Capitol Hill. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership in the Congressional Armenian Caucus is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

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OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your thoughtful remarks on the occasion of the 21 years of Karabakh's independence, which was delivered during the December 5, 2012 special celebration at the Capitol Hill. We are deeply grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

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NKR Representative to the United States

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December 12, 2012

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

On behalf of the people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your support in organizing the December 5th event at the Capitol Hill for celebrating 21 years of Karabakh's independence, as well as for your thoughtful remarks at the event. We are grateful for your efforts in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace, as well as to promote the universal values of human rights and democracy.

Your exceptional and outstanding leadership is critical for reaching our shared vision of a stable, predictable and economically prosperous South Caucasus.

Once again, we thank you and your staff for the outstanding leadership in promoting issues of significance for the American Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
NKR Representative to the United States

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ԼՆՈՂԱՅԻՆ ԳԱՐԱԲԱՅԻՒ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՐՏԱՔԻՆ ԳՈՐԾԵՐԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

12-1501

19.12.2012

H.E. Ambassador Robert BRADTKE
H.E. Ambassador Igor POPOV
H.E. Ambassador Jacques FAURE

Cc: H.E. Ambassador Andrzej KASPRZYK

Excellencies:

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic has consistently supported confidence- and security-building measures aimed at strengthening the existing cease-fire regime and reducing the tension on the Line of Contact between the armed forces of the NKR and Azerbaijan in order to ensure the irreversibility of the peace process and establish conditions conducive to reaching a final settlement to the conflict.

On December 4, 2008 Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Minister of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries in their Joint Declaration made during the OSCE Ministerial Council in Helsinki called "on the parties to work with the Co-Chairs to develop confidence-building measures, beginning with pulling back snipers from the Line of Contact to save lives of innocent civilians and soldiers as our mediators already proposed to the sides at the highest level during the last visit mid-November. It is urgent for the parties to work with each other, the Co-Chairs, and the Personal Representative of Chairman-in-Office to stabilize the cease-fire through this and other measures." The proposal to withdraw snipers was consequently supported by the OSCE Chairmen-in-Office and Secretary General as well as the UN Secretary General.

Acknowledging the importance of the withdrawal of snipers from the Line of Contact between the armed forces of the NKR and Azerbaijan in maintaining the fragile cease-fire and avoiding further escalation of tension, the NKR has immediately accepted the aforementioned proposal. It was also supported by Armenia, while Azerbaijan has been effectively rejecting it since then.

However, in order to ensure positive dynamics in the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict between the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan, we deem it necessary to continue working in that direction, assuming that this issue bears similar importance for all parties to the conflict.

Following the discussions we had during your visit of November 22, 2012 to Stepanakert, we suggest, as an initial step, to withdraw snipers from the Line of Contact between the armed forces of the NKR and Azerbaijan, and to refrain from any provocative actions for the periods of locally-important religious (such as Easter and Novruz) and other international holidays. In the future the list of holidays could be enlarged for the overall implementation of this proposal.

We believe that realization of this important confidence- and security-building measure would not only contribute to reducing tension on the Line of Contact between the armed forces of the NKR and Azerbaijan but could also become a symbolic step towards establishing atmosphere of mutual understanding, respect, trust and co-operation.

I would kindly request you to spare no effort in introducing this item into the agenda of the intricate negotiations held under your able mediation and leadership. I would also like to reiterate our readiness to further discuss this matter during your forthcoming visit to the region.

Excellencies, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Mirzoyan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen MIRZOYAN



ԼԵՈՆԱՅԻՆ ՂԱՐԱՔԱՂԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՐՏԱՔԻՆ ԳՈՐԾԵՐԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

21.12.2012.

**U.S. Secretary of State
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
2201 C St NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20520**

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Warmest greetings from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We highly appreciate the US government efforts aimed at the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as post-war rehabilitation and development of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

Let the year 2013 be a year of peace and prosperity for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K Mirzoyan', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen MIRZOYAN



ԼԵՈՆԱՅԻՆ ՂԱՐԱԲԱՂԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՐՏԱՔԻՆ ԳՈՐԾԵՐԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

21.12.2012.

U.S. OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair
Ambassador Robert Bradtke
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Bradtke,

Greetings to you and your family for a festive Holiday Season!

We appreciate your mediation efforts aimed at the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. We look forward to our continued and expanded cooperation for peace and prosperity in South Caucasus.

Best wishes for a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Mirzoyan'.

Karen MIRZOYAN



ԼԵՈՆԱՅԻՆ ՂԱՐԱՐԱՂԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՐՏԱՔԻՆ ԳՈՐԾԵՐԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

21.12.2012.

US Department of State
Office of Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts
Advisor
Mr. Jeffrey A. Hulse

Dear Mr. Hulse,

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you for a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Let me wish you and your family great success, health and happiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K Mirzoyan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen MIRZOYAN



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՐՏԱՔԻՆԻ ԳՈՐԾԵՐԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

N 04/0112/2013

The Honorable John Kerry
State Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

February 4, 2013

On behalf of the people and Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State of the United States of America.

We highly appreciate the mediation efforts of the United States and are confident that during your tenure the US along with Russian Federation and France will further contribute to the peaceful settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh based on principles of international law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude for the continued assistance your country renders to our young statehood and the people of Artsakh.

We are looking forward to a continued, close and good cooperation and believe that your outstanding vision and experience will contribute to promoting democracy, peace and stability in the region of South Caucasus.

Once again, Mr. Secretary, please accept our sincere congratulations and best wishes for a successful service as the new U.S. Secretary of State.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Mirzoyan'.

Karen Mirzoyan



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱԿԱՆ ԴԻՊԼՈՄԱՏԻԿԵՍԻՆԻ ՄԻՆԻՍՏԵՐԱՆ

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Bill Owens
431 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Owens,

On behalf of the people and Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, I am writing to express our profound gratitude to the U.S. Congress and the American people for the continued assistance provided by the United States to our young democracy.

Since the U.S. Congress initiated this life-saving assistance program, U.S. assistance to Karabakh has helped to repair our war-damaged homes, cleared minefields, ensured health care for our families, provided clean water for our children and improved the daily lives of our people in countless ways.

The people of Karabakh will always remember the helping hand offered by the American people in the hard days of post-war rehabilitation. We join to the words of appreciation shared by the leadership of the Armenian Church in America, in their December 28, 2012, letter to Congressional leaders, for the humanitarian spirit that drives U.S. aid for Nagorno Karabakh.

While significant progress has been made, much still remains to be done to eradicate the consequences of years of war and blockade. We hope that the United States will continue and expand its aid to Karabakh, thus further contribute to reaching our shared vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Caucasus.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Mirzoyan', is written over a horizontal line.

Karen Mirzoyan

**List of members of the US House Committee on Appropriations
who received letterf from the NKR Foreign Minster**

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Bill | Owens |
| Sanford D. | Bishop, Jr. |
| Henry | Cuellar |
| Peter J. | Visclosky |
| Debbie | Wasserman Schultz |
| Timothy J. | Ryan |
| Adam | Schiff |
| José E. | Serrano |
| Lucille | Roybal-Allard |
| Michael M. | Honda |
| Marcy | Kaptur |
| Sam | Farr |
| Chaka | Fattah |
| David E. | Price |
| Mike | Quigley |
| Ed | Pastor |
| Chellie | Pingree |
| James P. | Moran |
| Betty | McCollum |
| Barbara | Lee |
| Nita M. | Lowey |
| Rosa L. | DeLauro |
| Harold | Rogers |
| Tom | Latham |
| Tom | Graves |
| David | Joyce |
| David | Valadao |
| Frank R. | Wolf |
| Steve | Womack |
| Kevin | Yoder |
| C.W. Bill | Young |
| Tom | Rooney |
| Michael K. | Simpson |
| Alan | Nunnelee |
| Robert B. | Aderholt |
| Rodney M. | Alexander |
| Jaime Herrera | Beutler |
| Jo | Bonner |
| Ken | Calvert |
| John R. | Carter |
| Tom | Cole |
| Chuck | Fleischmann |
| Jeff | Fortenberry |
| Rodney | Frelinghuysen |

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Kay | Granger |
| Ander | Crenshaw |
| John Abney | Culberson |
| Charles W. | Dent |
| Mario | Diaz-Balart |
| Jack | Kingston |



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
SH-522
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. Reid

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ashot Ghulyan', written over a faint circular official stamp.

Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Z. February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
SH-728
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Reed

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

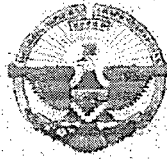
The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

Sincerely,

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February, 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
SR-218
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Kerry

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st. Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Richard J Durbin
United States Senate
SH-711
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Durbin

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

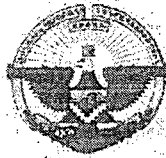
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With best wishes for the New 2013.

Sincerely,

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February, 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
SR-260
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. Blunt

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2. February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Lugar

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st. Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Patrick J Leahy
United States Senate
SR-437
Washington, DC 20510

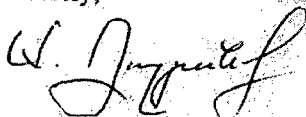
Dear Mr. Leahy

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

Sincerely,


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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel./ Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
SR-269
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. Levin

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
SH-528
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Menendez

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

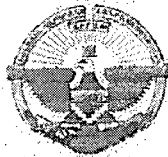
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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
SH-322
Washington, DC 20510

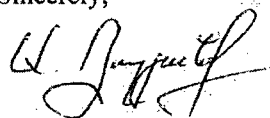
Dear Mr. Schumer

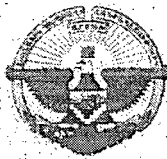
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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st. Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. Kirk

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2. February 20 st. Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
235 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Pelosi

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February. 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
205 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Eric Cantor
United States House of Representatives
303 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Cantor

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Jackie Speier
United States House of Representatives
211 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Speier

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

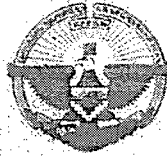
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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 str. Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable David Dreier
United States House of Representatives
233 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dreier

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2. February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Steny Hoyer
United States House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Hoyer

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

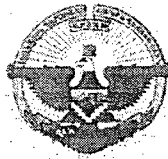
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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February, 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
237 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Pallone

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

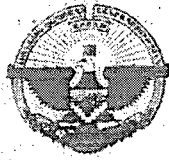
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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States House of Representatives
2411 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Schiff

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Maurice Hinchey
United States House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

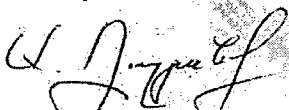
Dear Representative Hinchey

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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With best wishes for the New 2013.

Sincerely,


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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Barney Frank
United States House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Frak

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

Sincerely,


Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20-st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« » 2012

**The Honorable John Boehner
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Boehner

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable James Clyburn
United States House of Representatives
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Clyburn

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

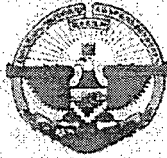
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Sincerely,

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st. Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Joseph Crowley
United States House of Representatives
2404 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Crowley

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

**The Honorable Brad Sherman
United States House of Representatives
2242 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Sherman

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st, Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

« _____ » 2012

The Honorable Ed Royce
United States House of Representatives
2185 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Royce

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2012 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2013 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2013.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

No. _____

« 11 » April 2013

Honorable Scott Hamann
Member
Maine House of Representatives

Dear Representative Hamann:

I am writing to express our gratitude to you and your colleagues in the Assembly of the State of Maine for supporting the freedom and independence of the people of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) by adopting the Resolution HP-987.

This Resolution sends another strong signal that the universal values of human rights and liberties will prevail over tyranny and suppression.

During the decades of our struggle for independence we have withstood enormous hardships and aggression. Yet, it did not break our determination to protect our freedom and dignity. Today, we remain convinced that international recognition of our republic is the only path to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of the NKR National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Artsakh), I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independent democracy. As a freedom loving nation, we are honored to have you, Mr. Hamann, and the proud State of Maine among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Ghulian".

Ashot Ghulian

Tel./Fax: (+374) 943221

« 11 » April 2013

Ashot Ghulian
Ashot Ghulian



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel./Fax: (+374) 943221

« 11 » April 2013

Honorable Andrew M. Gattine
Member
Maine House of Representatives

Dear Representative Gattine:

I am writing to express our gratitude to you and your colleagues in the Assembly of the State of Maine for supporting the freedom and independence of the people of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) by adopting the Resolution HP-987.

This Resolution sends another strong signal that the universal values of human rights and liberties will prevail over tyranny and suppression.

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On behalf of the NKR National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Artsakh), I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independent democracy. As a freedom loving nation, we are honored to have you, Mr. Gattine, and the proud State of Maine among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,

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Ashot Ghulian

ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

November 15-December 15, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

Members of the U.S. House and Senate joined with more than one hundred Armenian American community members in the historic Russell building on the Senate side of Capitol Hill to celebrate the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's independence, featuring a keynote address by the Foreign Minister of Nagorno Karabakh Republic Mr. Karen Mirzoyan. The Congressional event that marked the 21st anniversary of the Referendum for Independence in Artsakh and the sixth anniversary of the NKR Constitution was sponsored and organized by the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in cooperation with the Armenian Embassy, the Office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the United States, and leading Armenian American organizations. Read more at: http://nkrusa.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?id=42

In his remarks Foreign Minister Mirzoyan stressed for Artsakh "independence is not just an ultimate goal, but also the means by which the Nagorno Karabakh Republic can take its rightful place as a responsible member of the international community; by which our people can best fulfill their potential, realize their aspirations, and enjoy all the rights and freedoms that everyone deserves."

Foreign Ministers of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries (Russia, France, USA) issued a statement on Karabakh peace process urging "the parties to take decisive steps to reach a peaceful settlement". They also called upon the parties "to continue to respect the ceasefire of 1994", and reminded that the "use of military force will not resolve the conflict". While urging the parties to "refrain from actions and statements that foster feelings of enmity among their populations", they called on the sides to "prepare their populations for peace, not war". Armenia welcomed the Foreign Ministers' statement. Full statement at: <http://www.osce.org/mg/97882>

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs representing France, Russia and U.S. visited the region and met presidents of Armenia, Artsakh and Azerbaijan. While meeting with the mediators, the NKR president Bako Sahakyan called upon the mediators to return Azerbaijan to constructive dialogue. The Co-Chairs issued a statement at the end of their trip. Full statement at: <http://www.osce.org/mg/97469>

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier stressed there was no alternative to a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. He shared the Armenian sides' view that withdrawal of snipers from the contact line, preservation of the cease fire

regime, as well as end of bellicose rhetoric could become practical steps towards achieving a long-term resolution.

President Sahakyan received Sergei Konoplyov, Director of the Harvard University's Black Sea Security Program that has been attended by several senior Artsakh military officers, including current Defense Minister Gen. Movses Hakobyan.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Artsakh government approved the state budget draft law, which envisaged \$173 million in revenues and \$175 million in expenses. The document has been submitted for further discussion at the NKR National Assembly.

NKR government launched consultations on reconstruction of Martakert and Stepanakert water supply systems.

Nguyen David Hang from Australia became the 15,000th tourist to visit Artsakh this year and was awarded a special certificate at the NKR Foreign Ministry.

SOCIETY

'Hayastan' All-Armenian Fund concluded its 15th international telethon securing more than \$21 million in donations and pledges. This year, the funds collected through the 2012 fundraising will assist in the rural development in Armenia and Artsakh, as well as the urgent humanitarian needs of Syrian Armenians. Read more details here.

Artsakh remembered victims of Spitak earthquake of December 7, 1988: NKR President Bako Sahakyan laid flowers at the monument dedicated to the victims of this tragedy.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

On November 21-27, 1988 the historic Armenian community of Kirovabad (now Ganja) faced a wave of mob attacks that resulted in the killing of at least 18 ethnic Armenians, with about 60 others still missing. Organized by the local Azerbaijani authorities, the pogroms never saw a comprehensive investigation. Armenians of historic Gandzak organized self-defense that helped avoid greater casualties. In the end, around 45 000 Armenians were forcibly deported from their homes. For more background see the interview with participant of Kirovabad Armenian self-defense Grigory Oganezov.

On December 10, 1991 the national Referendum in Artsakh expressed overwhelming popular endorsement of the newly-formed Nagorno Karabakh Republic. 82% of the total number of Artsakh's registered voters participated in the

elections. The overwhelming majority of participants (99.98%) voted for independence. And on December 10, 2006, the people of Artsakh reaffirmed their commitment to live in a free, independent and democratic state by adopting the republic's Constitution.

President Bako Sahakyan addressed the nation to mark both occasions stressing that 1991 national referendum "preconditioned the whole course of our country's future development," while adoption of the NKR Constitution reaffirmed Artsakh's commitment to the "fundamental principles of democracy and universal values ... proving that the chosen path is unshakeable and right, and its course is indivertible and firm."

A few words about Artsakh

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was established in 1991 basing on a declaration of the local legislature, and results of a subsequent nation-wide referendum. The people of Artsakh defended their choice in a war unleashed by Azerbaijan.

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has emerged as a democratic, rule-of-law state with capable armed forces, a growing market economy, and an independent foreign policy.

* * *

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* * *

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!

December 15-31, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

In his New Year address, NKR President Bako Sahakyan urged unity and consolidation to accomplish the nation's overarching goal: for Artsakh people's to live in dignity in its historic land.

Azerbaijan's destructive position on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict remains the greatest challenge to the security of the region, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated during a summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

While meeting with Artsakh Defense Army military leadership and staff, Sahakyan stressed that Artsakh is ready to give a strong response to any aggression.

Speaking at a news conference on his 100th day in office, the NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan emphasized key directions of the NKR foreign policy - the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict settlement via peaceful negotiations and international recognition of NKR. See video in Armenian here.

Ambassador Ian Kelly will temporarily replace outgoing Ambassador Robert Bradtke as acting American Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

President Sahakyan signed the 2013 budget approved by the NKR National Assembly into law.

In a meeting with Artsakh business leaders, the Artsakh president highlighted continued enhancements to the business environment. Read presidential address here.

SOCIETY

Stepanakert Public Library was reopened after a reconstruction.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

January 1-15, 2013

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SECURITY & POLITICS

Freedom House ranked Nagorno Karabakh as "Partly Free" in its "Freedom in the World 2013" annual report, pointing to last year's competitive presidential elections. Unlike Armenia and Artsakh, Azerbaijan is ranked as "not free."

Azerbaijani President Aliyev was named "Corruption's 'Person Of The Year'" by the international Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP).

Glification of the axe murderer in Azerbaijan had a huge negative impact on the negotiation process, said NKR president's spokesman David Babayan, predicting no significant breakthrough in Karabakh peace process in 2013.

Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs plan to meet at the end of this month in Paris to discuss current stage of Karabakh peace process.

Like other European Union states, Poland refuses to supply weapons to any of the parties of the Karabakh conflict, stated Polish Ambassador to Armenia Zdzislaw Raczynski.

The HALO Trust NGO called on the Armenian Diaspora to continue to support mine clearance in Artsakh.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan made his first working visit in 2013 to the village of Chapar in the Martakert region. Issues related to the development of the village were discussed during the meeting with village residents.

NKR government is developing a new agricultural program aimed at improving the quality of work and more effective public finance management within the sector.

SOCIETY

On Armenian Christmas Day, Artsakh Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan served a festive liturgy at the St. Kazanchetsots Cathedral in Shushi.

The first day of 2013 was marked by the birth of six children in Artsakh. See video report from Artsakh TV here.

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January 15-31, 2013

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SECURITY & POLITICS

Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan outlined main conditions necessary to resolve the Karabakh conflict in a meeting with faculty and students of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). See Artsakh TV report here. The group that traveled from Washington also visited the Artsakh State University.

Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs met in Paris to discuss current stage of Karabakh peace process. Issue related to Stepanakert airport was on the agenda of the meeting.

The Government of Azerbaijan adopted a decision apparently designed to justify shooting down of civilian aircraft. Artsakh called on the international community to react to Baku's outrageous threats to target civilian in mid-air. Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan stated that Armenia's military will provide security for civilian flights between Yerevan and Stepanakert.

NKR President Bako Sahakyan met representatives of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsoutyun) party Hrant Margaryan and Georgy Petrosyan to discuss domestic and foreign policy issues.

Los Angeles Times published an article by Carol Williams on the continuing international relevance of the Karabakh conflict.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

A new Europe Hotel opened its doors in Stepanakert opened its doors to welcome in business travelers and tourists.

SOCIETY

A new branch of the Stepanakert Public Library opened on the campus of Artsakh State University and will be known as the Muratsan Library in honor of the late 19th-early 20th cent. writer of Armenian historical novels.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

The pogroms in Baku in January 1990 against its Armenian residents was a culmination of anti-Armenian violence in response to Artsakh's peaceful campaign

for reunification with Armenia. Since January 13, 1990, Azerbaijani nationalists launched methodical, house-by-house attacks on Armenians living in the Azerbaijani capital, weeklong attacks that came to be known as Baku pogroms. As a result, scores of Armenians were killed. Soviet authorities evacuated remnants of once 250,000-strong Armenian community of Baku.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

February 1-28, 2013

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

In February Azerbaijani forces continued to violate the cease-fire regime on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, claiming the life of private Mher Yeghshatyan (born in 1976) on February 9 and wounding another Armenian soldier, private Gevorg Melikbekyan, 22, on February 13. The latter is in normal health condition and in the process of recovery. Armenian forces undertook retaliatory measures on all occasions. At the same period of time, Artsakh Defense Army registered around 250 occasions of cease fire violations from Azerbaijani military units in a result of which private Gor Ghazaryan (born in 1992) was killed on February 19. After retaliatory measures of the Artsakh Defense Army cease-fire regime was restored. Private Ghazaryan was posthumously awarded with a medal of "Service in Combat."

NKR President Bako Sahakyan issued a congratulatory statement on the 25th anniversary of the Karabakh national-Liberation Movement. Earlier, Artsakh leader attended the demonstration organized in Stepanakert on the 25th anniversary of Karabakh Freedom movement. In his remarks, President Sahakyan emphasized the importance of Artsakh Freedom movement on the path towards freedom and democracy.

A statement of the Canadian MP Jim Karygiannis marked the 25th anniversary of Karabakh Freedom movement. The statement emphasized a heroic path of Artsakh people towards independence and democracy.

In another statement, addressed to the NKR President Bako Sahakyan, Member of the U.S. Congress, Co-Chair of Armenian Congressional Caucus Frank Pallone Jr. congratulated people and government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic on the 25th anniversary of the Freedom movement.

NKR President Bako Sahakyan congratulated incumbent President Serzh Sargsyan on his re-election on the position of the President of the Republic of Armenia.

President Sahakyan met Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict to discuss Karabakh peace process and situation on the Karabakh-Azerbaijani Line of Contact.

Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan congratulated newly-appointed US Secretary of State John Kerry on this occasion. In his letter, Minister Mirzoyan expressed his

gratitude for U.S. humanitarian assistance to Artsakh as well as for U.S. mediation efforts to find peaceful resolution of the Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict.

Armenian and Artsakh Foreign Ministers met to exchange views and opinions on the Karabakh peace process after recent Paris meeting of Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan with his Azeri counterpart and OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs.

U.S. State Department once again excluded any military solution of the Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijan once again demonstrated its intolerance and xenophobia while launching hysteric campaign against Azeri well-known writer Akram Aylisli for his recently published "Stone Dreams" novel where the author portrayed Azeri atrocities against Armenians in 1990th as well as Armenian massacres by Turks in 1918-1920. The launched campaign was followed by Nazi style burnings of Aylisli's books all over the country as well as threatens to harm the writer including reward for cutting writer's ear off. Moreover, Azerbaijani President Aliiev stripped Aylisli of his title "People's Writer" as well as state pension. Family and relatives of the write were also persecuted. Global watch dog groups, including Human Rights Watch and the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety as well as world mass media accused Azerbaijani government for intimidating the writer. Read more here.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Armenian and Artsakh state agencies on economic competition expanded their cooperation during the visit of Armenian antimonopoly agency delegation to Stepanakert.

Prospects of development of clothes manufacturing in Artsakh were discussed during the meeting of Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan with Italian-Armenian businessman Gagik Saroukhanyan.

Armenia and Artsakh shared a joint booth at the Los Angeles Times Travel Show organized in CA.

SOCIETY

Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan met a group of Karabakh native Armenian philanthropists from the Russian Federation to express his gratitude for their consistent support and contribution to Artsakh development.

The HALO Trust, a British-based NGO, continues humanitarian mine-clearance in Artsakh jointly with the NKR Government. While receiving the Karabakh Program Director of the HALO Trust in Stepanakert, Artsakh Foreihn Minister Karen

Mirzoyan expressed gratitude for their activity and reassured Artsakh government's support to further implementation of the mine-cleaning program of the organisation.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

This February 20th marked the 25th anniversary of the Karabakh Liberation Movement. On February 20, 1988, reflecting the will of local population, Karabakh's legislature petitioned Soviet leadership bodies of Azerbaijan and Armenia to transfer the autonomy from Soviet Azerbaijan to Soviet Armenia, aiming to correct Stalin's self-willed decision of 1921. In response to peaceful manifestations in Stepanakert, Azerbaijan responded with attacks and murders of hundreds of ethnic Armenians in towns and villages throughout Azerbaijan, including Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad.

On February 26-29, 1988, the Azeri town of Sumgait (hundreds of miles away from Nagorno Karabakh) became the scene of mass pogroms and brutal killings of ethnic Armenians. The massacre claimed dozens of innocent lives, setting a dangerous precedent which was later repeated in Baku and elsewhere in Azerbaijan. Conducted with the connivance of the Azeri authorities, the tragedy never saw a comprehensive investigation; the organizers and perpetrators remain unpunished. Commemoration of the Sumgait genocide took place in Artsakh, Armenia and dozens of states worldwide.

Instead of repenting for its actions, Azerbaijan tries to escape responsibility for committing the genocide in Sumgait, and other crimes against Armenians by misinforming the international community about the killings of civilians near Khojaly. In February, 1992, Azeri civilians who managed to leave from Khojaly via a corridor provided by Armenian forces, were consequently sacrificed for the political purposes and many of them murdered by Azeri troops near Azerbaijani-controlled Aghdam, a town seven miles away from Khojaly proper. The fact was supported by then Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov, who had been dethroned later in 1992, as well as by Azeri and international journalists.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

March 1-15, 2013

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POLITICS & SECURITY

The Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Co-Chairs of the Congressional Armenian Caucus and other members of Congress joined with Armenian American community members on Capitol Hill to mark the 25th anniversary of democracy and freedom movemen in Artsakh and hear a keynote address by the Minister of Youth and Culture of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Narine Aghabalyan. The Congressional event was organized by the co-chairs in cooperation with the Armenian Embassy, the Office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and leading Armenian American organizations.

In her remarks Minister Aghabalyan stressed that the NKR is a state created through free expression of the democratic will of the people of Artsakh and based on rule of law. She expressed gratitude to U.S. legislators for speaking out in defense of Karabakh's rights and for humanitarian assistance provided.

Armenian Americans from throughout the state of California converged to protest against Azerbaijani government delegation's visit to the California State Senate.

The formation of Lithuania-NKR Parliamentary Friendship Group was officially announced during a session of the Lithuanian parliament.

During his visit to Russia, NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan was interviewed by Ekho Moskvyy radio station. Mirzoyan discussed the Karabakh peace process, stressing that all issues on the negotiation table must be discussed and resolved as a package.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Edward Nalbandyan met the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in Paris to discuss Karabakh peace process. The mediators now plan to visit the region in late March.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

NKR delegates participated in the International Tourism Exhibition in Milan, Italy representing Artsakh's tourism industry and culture.

SOCIETY

NKR government has instructed Artsakhbank to begin initial disbursement of compensation for Soviet-era devaluated bank deposits.

Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan, visited Artsakh to discuss further cooperation between capitals of two Armenian republics. See video report here.

NKR President Bako Sahakyan and Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan were in Shoushi to assess the regional administration's activity throughout 2012.

More than 40 school students participated in the essay writing competition dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Artsakh freedom Movement organized by the Stepanakert Administration. Stepanakert Mayor Suren Grigoryan awarded the winners of the contest.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

March 5, 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of liberation of Mets Shen village of Martakert region, NKR, from Azeri aggressors. See video report from Artsakh TV here.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

April, 2013

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SECURITY & POLITICS

The Maine House of Representatives passed a resolution supporting the independence of Artsakh, and calling upon the U.S. President and Congress to recognize the NKR independence.

Fresno County became the first County in California to officially recognize the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh calling upon the state legislature to grant official recognition to Artsakh.

France-Artsakh Friendship Circle was established to embrace incumbent and former parliamentarians, and other political figures and specialists. The initiative became the second after establishment of Artsakh – Lithuania Parliamentary Friendship Group.

President Sahakyan and delegation have concluded working visit to France, where they met with the French-Armenian community and organizations, members of the France – Artsakh friendship circle. Artsakh President also met with representatives of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund in France to discuss continued humanitarian programs in Artsakh.

Artsakh – Germany ties were discussed in Stepanakert between President Sahakyan and Matthias Wilkes, head Germany's Bergstrasse District State of Hessen, and Honorary Consul of Armenia in Hessen Steven Brayan Fera.

U.S. State Department reiterates adherence to the peaceful settlement of the NK conflict. "Only a lasting and peaceful settlement can bring stability, prosperity, and reconciliation to the region", said U.S. State Department official.

"We must recognize Nagorno-Karabakh", was the message of French MP Valérie Boyer in Stepanakert. Delegation of members of the European Parliament and French MPs visited Artsakh, and discussed cooperation with their colleagues in NKR Parliament. Click here for Artsakh TV's coverage.

Peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, international recognition of the Artsakh Republic and development of multilateral international ties were reiterated by Artsakh President Sahakyan as republic foreign policy priorities.

NKR Deputy Foreign Minister Feliks Khachatryan visited UK and delivered lecture on NKR and regional security. The event was organized at the University College London (UCL). Click for video.

The Fresno Bee published article "Nagorno Karabakh - 25 years of challenges and achievements" by the NKR Representative to the US. The article covers Artsakh's struggle for development since gaining independence.

Artsakh Representative to the US delivered a lecture at California State University in Fresno during his recent visit to the State.

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Legislative Affairs Director Raffi Karakashian testified before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs in support of increased U.S. assistance to Nagorno Karabakh along with other requests.

Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairmen Frank Pallone and Michael Grimm, as well as over twenty other members of Congress called upon the US House foreign aid appropriators to expand assistance for Artsakh. Later, in response to questions from Congressmen Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Brad Sherman (D-CA), Rajiv Shah, the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, affirmed the Obama Administration's commitment to continue Congressional assistance for Nagorno Karabakh.

The Foreign Policy Journal published an article "In Search of Effective Deterrence" by Aram Avetisyan. In his article, Counselor of the NKR Office in the USA covered major risks for renewed hostilities in the South Asia and the South Caucasus, as well as compared bellicose rhetoric by regimes of Kim Jong Un of North Korea and Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Synopsys Armenia CJSC, Karabakh Telecom CJSC and Artsakh State University signed agreement establishing a new IT department in the University.

NKR Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan visited France to discuss further enhancement of economic ties between business circles of the republics. Later, the Artsakh Premier visited Lebanon, where he met with officials and private sector representatives of the country.

The number of tourists and visitors of Artsakh increased by 37 percent in 2012 compared with 2011. The NKR Statistical Service reports guests from 86 countries in 2012, compared to 69 countries during the previous year.

SOCIETY

President Sahakyan discussed humanitarian programs in Artsakh with Armenian liaison of the Armenia Assembly of America Armina Darbinyan.

Construction of schools remains among priorities for the NKR government, stressed NKR Minister of Education Slava Asryan.

NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs Karen Mirzoyan received newly appointed head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mission in Artsakh, Nicolas Fleury (Switzerland) to discuss the organization's programs in the republic.

American University of Armenia (AUA) and Armenian General Benevolent Union launched a new educational project in Artsakh, offering educational programs for students and other participants.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

On March 11, 1999, the European Parliament passed a resolution on Nagorno Karabakh (Resolution on Support for the Peace Process in the Caucasus) that legitimizes the declaration of an independent NKR on the basis of former USSR legislation. The document stressed that "the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh declared its independence following similar declarations by former Soviet Socialist Republics after the collapse of the USSR in September 1991". See full text of resolution here.

April 10 marked the 20th anniversary of the one of the bloodiest chapters of the Karabakh war. On April 10, 1992, Azerbaijani military units invaded the village of Maragha in Mardakert district. As a result of the aggression, hundreds of Maragha civilians, mostly women, children, and elderly person, were brutally killed, taken hostage or forcefully displaced. The fate of a number of them still remains unknown. Two weeks after the Maragha massacre, on April 22-23, the village was repeatedly attacked and locals who had come back to their burnt homes were forced to abandon the village, which has since been occupied by Azerbaijan. Baroness Caroline Cox, former vice speaker of the British parliament's House of Lord, visited Maragha area a few days after tragedy. She expressed her horror at the crime saying "They are not of human race" about those who carried out the slaughter, lately described in her book "Ethnic Cleansing in Progress". On this occasion, the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement

On April 24 the world marked the 98th anniversary of Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Turkey. The first genocide of the 20th century claimed the lives of more than one and half million Armenians - citizens of the Ottoman Empire. Despite a number of documented materials and recognition of the genocide by many governments and organizations, Turkey still denies this tragedy.

In Stepanakert, NKR President Bako Sahakyan and other leaders laid flowers to the monument commemorating the Genocide's innocent victims. In his remarks on

this tragic occasion, Artsakh President stated that the world should recognize Armenia Genocide, and that the Armenian people are grateful to those who raise their voice for justice.

The genocide commemoration events also took place all over the world including the United States capital. On April 24, 2013 the Annual Capitol Hill Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide featured many members of U.S. Congress, as well as Armenia's Ambassador to the U.S. Tatoul Markarian, and Artsakh Representative Robert Avetisyan.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was established in 1991 basing on a declaration of the local legislature, and results of a subsequent nation-wide referendum. The people of Artsakh defended their choice in a war unleashed by Azerbaijan. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has emerged as a democratic, rule-of-law state with capable armed forces, a growing market economy, and an independent foreign policy.

We would like to hear from you. Please send your comments to Press Service at: info@nkrusa.org
Please visit our YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ArtsakhOnline>

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

May, 2013

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

Artsakh-Armenia relations and economic cooperation between two republics were discussed in Stepanakert by Presidents of Armenia and Artsakh Serzh Sargsyan and Bako Sahakian. The Armenian president led the delegation that arrived in Artsakh to join a celebration of May 9 "Triple Holiday" in Artsakh, marking the Victory of the Allies in WWII, the 1992 Liberation of Shushi, and the Formation of the Artsakh Defense Army. On this occasion, Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan addressed the congratulatory statement.

The foreign ministers of Armenia and NKR discussed a current stage of Karabakh peace process as well as future cooperation between two Republic's diplomatic structures during a visit of Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan in Stepanakert.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Arthur Tovmasyan talked about Karabakh peace process, its challenges and other regional issues in his interview to ArmenPress.

NKR Deputy Foreign Minister Felix Khachatryan met the delegation of the Danish Association on Foreign Policy Issues to discuss NKR foreign policy, Karabakh conflict, and state building process in Artsakh.

The EU reaffirmed its support for the OSCE Minsk Group stressing its complete confidence in the commitment of the Co-Chairs to find fair and lasting peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

1992 marks the 21st anniversary of establishment heroic Artsakh Defence Army that defended Artsakh young republic and its people not only from Azerbaijan's aggression, but also from radical Islamists and terrorists hired by Azerbaijan. A number of evidence collected from 1992-1993 and widely elucidated in global mass media prove that during Karabakh war, Azerbaijan hired around 3,000 Afghan mojahedins, as well as one of the leaders of Chechen terrorists Shamil Basayev with his detachments to fight against the Karabakh Army. After suffering heavy losses, the latters left Artsakh.

A group of French members of Senate and National Assembly visited Artsakh to meet high level officials of the Republic. Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan received French delegation to discuss issue of mutual interest and cooperation. Later, French delegation was received with NKR Foreign Minister.

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs met the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Krakow, Poland to discuss current stage of Karabakh peace process. The mediators called the sides to avoid actions or rhetoric that could raise tensions or damage the peace process. Later, the mediators traveled to the region to meet Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to exchange views on possible meeting between the Presidents.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan stressed importance of Hayastan pan Armenian Fund in development of Artsakh during his meeting with the Fund's Board members who visited NKR. Later, President Sahakyan participated in the meeting of Board of Trustees that discussed issues related Telethon 2013.

Artsakh expects around 10 percent increasing of GDP for next five years as well as increasing of annual volume of investments in the NKR's economy, said NKR Prime Minister Ara Haroutyunyan during his meeting with Artsakh students.

NKR registered about 10 percent GDP growth during 2012.

Control Commission of the NKR Prime Minister launched a check up of performance of hospitals and medical organizations in NKR.

SOCIETY

The construction of the Martuni Regional Hospital is about to end this month. Partnering with the Armenian Medical Fund and the government of Artsakh, the Pan-Armenian Hayastan Fund implemented a construction of the modern regional healthcare complex in Martuni region.

Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan attended a ceremony of opening a newly-renovated building of Stepanakert School # 3. The President thanked the Armenian philanthropists Sergey and Nikolai Sarkisov and Ruben Vardanyan for sponsoring the school's renovation.

A new football field was opened in Shushi aimed at developing sport life in the town. See Artsakh TV report in Armenian here.

The First Armenian Republic (1918-1920) had a critical role throughout its history, culture and civilization serving as a bridge between its past, present and future, stressed an address of the NKR President on the First Republic Day anniversary.

Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan met Russian-Armenian philanthropist Sergey Hambardzumyan to discuss a number of projects in Artsakh. Sergey Hambardzumyan was awarded "Vachagan Barepasht" medal.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

1991 Ethnic Cleansing Campaign Against Armenians: Operation "Ring"

The spring of 1991 marked a new, violent phase in Azerbaijan's policy of ethnic cleansing against Armenians from their historic land and homes both within Nagorno Karabakh and outside its then administrative borders. As a result of this operation encouraged by Azerbaijan and conducted primarily by Soviet internal security forces tens of thousands of Armenians were deported from their homes, dozens of Armenian settlements were completely devastated, destroyed and depopulated. This aggression marked an escalation of the Karabakh conflict into an open military confrontation. The NKR Foreign Ministry released a statement on this occasion stressing Azerbaijan's efforts to "intimidate the population of Nagorno Karabakh and suppress their legitimate aspirations for self-determination" failed. This ethnic cleansing policy of Azerbaijan "strengthened the determination of the people of Artsakh to fight for their rights and freedoms."

1992 Liberation of Shushi

The liberation of Shushi on May 9, 1992 was one of the major successes of the Armenian forces in Artsakh during the 1991-1994 war. This military victory also symbolized the rebirth of the Armenian spirit that resonated far beyond Artsakh, to all corners of the world. In the following days Artsakh Defense Forces established a vital land-link with Armenia proper. Fierce battles continued throughout 1992-1994, but the Shushi operation made all subsequent victories possible.

1994 Cease Fire Agreement

May 12 marks an anniversary of the cease fire agreement signed by Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia. Azerbaijan, having sustained major military reversals and with its armed units pushed out of most of Artsakh and adjacent territories, was forced to sign a cease-fire agreement. Despite frequent violations of this agreement, the document remains one of the key achievements of the Karabakh peace process that helped re-establish stability in the South Caucasus region.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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PRESS RELEASE

December 5, 2012

WASHINGTON, DC – On December 4, 2012, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh Mr. Karen Mirzoyan arrived in Washington, D.C.

On December 5, 2012, the Foreign Minister Mirzoyan has started his visit by holding separate meetings with members of the U.S. Congress Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, and Frank Pallone, Jr. Issues related to the regional developments, Karabakh peace process, as well as economic development and democratic achievement in the NKR were discussed during the meetings. The NKR Foreign Minister expressed gratitude to the members of Congress for their steadfast support of Artsakh's cause, and their efforts for continuation of the US assistance to Artsakh.

Members of Congress, in their turn, expressed their concern with Azerbaijan's destructive stance in the negotiations, and pledged to continue promoting Artsakh's security and economic prosperity.

Later the same day, NKR Foreign Minister Mirzoyan attended a U.S. Congressional event dedicated to the 21st anniversary of Artsakh's referenda on independence and adoption of the NKR Constitution. The commemoration was organized in the US Senate by co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Armenian caucus, in cooperation with the Embassy of Armenia, Armenian-American organizations and NKR Office in the USA.

In his speech, Karen Mirzoyan expressed gratitude to the United States and other mediators for their efforts in seeking for a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict. He stressed, in particular, that "an unimpeded involvement of NKR in international processes would ... send an appropriate signal to Azerbaijan to abandon its revanchist aspirations, and show political will for the sake of a stable and predictable South Caucasus".

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PRESS RELEASE

December 6, 2012

ARTSAKH'S INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY MARKED ON CAPITOL HILL

Washington, DC - Members of the U.S. House and Senate joined with more than one hundred Armenian American community leaders at a December 5th Capitol Hill celebration of Nagorno Karabakh's independence, featuring a keynote address by the Foreign Minister of Nagorno Karabakh, Karen Mirzoyan.

The Congressional event, held in the historic Russell building on the Senate side of Capitol Hill was sponsored and organized by the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Rep. Ed Royce, the incoming Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Rep. Frank Pallone, in cooperation with the Armenian Embassy, the Office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the United States, and leading Armenian American organizations. Diplomats, religious leaders, think tank community representatives, Congressional staff members, Armenian-Americans community leaders, and representatives of local and international media joined the legislators in participating in the celebration.

The event marked the day, 21 years ago, when Artsakh held a national referendum on its independence that delivered an overwhelming vote (98.9% of eligible Artsakh voters) in support of an independent state that, acting on its own authority, was empowered to decide forms of co-operation with other states and communities. In 2006, more than a decade later, also in December, the citizens of Artsakh reaffirmed their commitment to live in a free and independent state by adopting Artsakh's primary law, namely the Constitution of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, which consolidated all the basic principles of state sovereignty and marked a new stage in the Republic's development.

Minister Mirzoyan, in his keynote address, emphasized the importance of both democratic votes, as well as the symbolism of their having taken place on or near International Human Rights Day. He stressed, in his remarks, that: "For us, independence is not just an ultimate goal, but also the means by which the Nagorno Karabakh Republic can take its rightful place as a responsible member of the international community; by which our people can best fulfill their potential, realize their aspirations, and enjoy all the rights and freedoms that everyone deserves." While talking about the Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict, Minister Mirzoyan stressed Artsakh's alliance with the international community in seeking a peaceful resolution of the conflict. He also expressed confidence that "effective negotiations require the immediate restoration of Artsakh's full participation in all aspects of the negotiation process."

Ambassador Markarian addressed the gathering and praised the Armenian Congressional Caucus for their unwavering support for independence, security and democratic development of Artsakh. He strongly condemned the recent hostile actions of Azerbaijan and underscored the urgency of support and recognition of the independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic by the international community. As part of the evening's program, Ambassador Markarian presented "Mkhitar Gosh" medals to the Representatives Anna Eshoo and Brad Sherman. These honors, bestowed by the President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, recognized their many contributions to the advancement of Armenian issues, including universal recognition of the Armenian Genocide. At the same time, during the event, Minister Mirzoyan awarded both Reps. Sherman and Eshoo commemorative medals dedicated to the anniversary of the Artsakh's independence.

Members of Congress congratulated people of Artsakh on the occasion of those anniversaries and highlighted their support for the legitimacy of the Artsakh's independence and its many achievements since independence. They expressed their readiness to continue supporting international recognition of the Artsakh Republic and condemned the escalation of threats and acts of anti-Armenian hatred and violence by the Azerbaijani government, a troubling trend that recently culminated in Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's pardoning of convicted axe-murderer Ramil Safarov.

In his opening remarks, Representative Pallone, who moderated the event, stressed that the people and leaders of Artsakh realized their right to self-determination and independence in full conformity with all existing national and international law, legal precedent, and democratic traditions. He called for continued American support for Artsakh's democracy. Joining Congressman Pallone in offering remarks, and making statements, were Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), and Representatives Adam Schiff (D-CA), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), David Cicilline (D-RI), and Eliot Engel (D-NY), the incoming Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA). Reps. Jeff Denham (R-CA) and Linda Sanchez (D-CA) were also among those participating in the celebration.

John Evans, the former US Ambassador to Armenia attended and addressed the event.

The program was rounded out by a powerful speech by Anna Astvatsaturian-Turcotte, an Armenian refugee from Azerbaijan, who was an eyewitness to anti-Armenian violence in Baku. She spoke movingly of those dreadful days, which reaffirmed, she explained, her resolve to see Artsakh live in freedom. She recently published her memoirs, titled "Nowhere, a Story of Exile," that tells the story of her life in Baku, and Azerbaijan's brutality against Armenian citizens in Baku and elsewhere. She called upon the global community to pay proper attention to the plight of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan, and expressed her hope that one day Azerbaijani society would be able to overcome its hatred towards Armenians.

The event was concluded by the invocation served by the Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America (East), as well as Reverend Fathers of both Armenian churches in Washington.

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PRESS RELEASE

December 6, 2012

WASHINGTON, DC – On December 6, 2012, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Mr. Karen Mirzoyan continued his visit to Washington, D.C.

On December 6, 2012, Minister Mirzoyan has visited the Embassy of Armenia in Washington, DC where he met with Ambassador Tatoul Markarian and Embassy staff.

After the meeting with Armenian diplomats, Foreign Minister Mirzoyan met with representatives of DC-based American-Armenian organizations and clergy. The current stage of negotiations around the Karabakh-Azerbaijan conflict was discussed. The Minister also presented the steps the Artsakh leadership is undertaking to ensure country's comprehensive development.

Later the same day, NKR Foreign Minister participated in a closed discussion on Karabakh conflict resolution. The event was organized at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace with participation of regional experts, scholars and representatives of DC-based think-tank community.

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PRESS RELEASE

December 10, 2012

Artsakh Republic Celebrates 21 Years of Independence and Constitutional Referenda

Washington, DC – December 10, 2012 marks the 21st anniversary of the national Referendum in Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh), which evidenced overwhelming popular endorsement of the newly-formed Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

82% of the total number of Artsakh's registered voters participated in the elections. The overwhelming majority of participants (99.98%) voted for proclamation of the independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic, with its own authority to define co-operation with other states and entities.

Fifteen years later, on the same day in 2006, the people of independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic have reaffirmed their commitment to live in a free and democratic state by adopting the republic's main law – Constitution. A logical continuation of the state-building process, adoption of the Constitution has consolidated all the basic principles of the state sovereignty, and symbolized a new stage in the republic's development.

Conducted in a full compliance with the international norms, the referenda represent pillars of Artsakh's independent statehood, and development as a democratic society.

NKR President Bako Sahakyan addressed the nation on both occasions stressing that 1991 national referendum "preconditioned the whole course of our country's future development" while adoption of the NKR Constitution reaffirmed Artsakh's commitment to the "fundamental principles of democracy and universal values ... proving that the chosen path is unshakeable and right, and its course is indivertible and firm."

Symbolically, December 10 is the day of the UN's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The document, which sets out the fundamental human rights, inter alia, states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

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PRESS RELEASE

February 20, 2013

KARABAKH CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENT

Reaffirms Commitment to Freedom and Democracy

Washington, DC - Today marks the 25th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Liberation Movement. On February 20, 1988, reflecting the will of local population, Karabakh's legislature petitioned Soviet leadership bodies of Azerbaijan and Armenia to transfer the autonomy from Soviet Azerbaijan to Soviet Armenia, aiming to correct Stalin's self-willed decision of 1921.

"Our nation's struggle against foreign yoke, nearly seven decades of persistent violence and oppression was at the very basis of the 1988 Movement", said President of Artsakh Bako Sahakyan on this occasion.

25 years ago, Karabakh's aspirations were fiercely opposed by the central Soviet authorities, who tried to suppress the first truly democratic movement in the crumbling USSR. Moscow deployed Soviet troops along with Azerbaijani militia to instill fear and signaling crackdown.

In response to peaceful manifestations in Stepanakert, well-organized Azeri mobs attacked and murdered hundreds of ethnic Armenians in towns and villages throughout Azerbaijan, including Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad (former Armenian Gandzak).

By 1991, Azerbaijan launched a full-scale military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh's demand for freedom, killing thousands and destroying Armenian towns and villages. Resolution 128 by the US

Senate (May, 1991) condemned "indiscriminate use of force" by Azerbaijan against "innocent children, women, and men in ... communities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh and in Armenia".
(<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c102:S.+Res.+128:>)

However, Armenians could defend their houses on the battlefield, and eventually forced the aggressor into a ceasefire, which was signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh Republic in May of 1994.

Since then, NKR has been developing as an independent democracy, with effective government and well-functioning civil society.

"All of us, the whole nation will do everything possible for continuous strengthening of our independent statehood that has been reached at such a high price. It is an exclusive value without which it is impossible to think about the immortality and development of the Fatherland and the native people," President said on the occasion.

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MEDIA ALERT: THE FRESNO BEE PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON ARTSAKH

DATE: March 18, 2013

TO: Media Colleagues

RE: The Fresno Bee Published Article on Artsakh

On March 18, 2013, The Fresno Bee published an article by Robert Avetisyan.

Named "Nagorno Karabakh -- 25 years of challenges and achievements" the publication covers Artsakh people struggle for freedom and independence, Karabakh Freedom movement, formation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and its further development.

The full text of the article is provided below. You can also view it online at:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2013/03/18/3219702/robert-avetisyan-karabakh-deserves.html>

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The Fresno Bee

Robert Avetisyan: Nagorno Karabakh -- 25 years of challenges and achievements

Published: Monday, March 18, 2013

Feb. 20, 1988 was the day when Soviet authorities in Moscow saw the first real signs of what was soon to become the first truly democratic movement in the Soviet Empire.

A full quarter of a century ago, the Council of People's Deputies, the legislative body for Nagorno Karabakh, sent a formal appeal to the authorities in Soviet Azerbaijan and Armenia and to Moscow as well, to reunite Artsakh (as Nagorno Karabakh is known in Armenian) with Armenia.

In making this request, they sought to reverse the arbitrary 1921 decision by dictator Joseph Stalin to carve Artsakh out of Armenia and place it under the administration of the newly created Soviet Azerbaijan Republic.

The citizens of Karabakh had never accepted Stalin's actions and when the Soviet system began opening up in the late 1980s, under Gorbachev's Perestroika and Glasnost, they moved quickly to realize their long-held democratic aspirations.

When the 180,000 people of the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (or NKAO) raised their voice for freedom, the Communist leadership in Moscow and Baku pushed back hard, but could not suppress the legitimate right of the people of this land to freedom and self-determination.

Moscow sought to ignore these democratic appeals and deployed troops to instill fear and crack down on Artsakh. Baku's response was even worse: During Feb. 26-28, 1988, hundreds of Armenians were subjected to torture and murdered simply for being Armenian. Organized mobs armed with knives and sharpened rods attacked apartments that belonged to Armenian families and conducted targeted atrocities with the full support of law-enforcement authorities in the large industrial city of Sumgait.

Seeing no condemnation, Soviet Azerbaijani authorities spread their attacks into cities that included Azerbaijan's capital of Baku, Kirovabad. These attacks, too, claimed the lives of innocent people whose only "crime" was being Armenian.

By end of 1991, the people of Artsakh, having endured violence and aggression, acted under existing laws, to declare the formation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR). Azerbaijan's reaction was as predictable as it was aggressive. Emboldened by the impunity of their previous attacks, they launched a full-scale military attack against the newly-formed NKR, threatening the existence of local Armenians, Russians, Greeks, Azerbaijanis, Jews and others. The war lasted until 1994, when Azerbaijan relented and signed a cease-fire with Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Armenia. Over the course of this war, Azerbaijani attacks ruined almost the entire social and economic infrastructure of Artsakh, killing and maiming tens of thousands and causing large flows of refugees on both sides.

Since the 1994 cease-fire, Artsakh has developed a fully-functioning democracy with an effective government, fledging market economy, vibrant civil society and capable armed forces. The process of democratic development is irreversible, as illustrated by the series of parliamentary and presidential elections that have been described as free and fair by international observers. Freedom House, the human-rights watchdog, has rated Nagorno Karabakh as a partly free nation, marking the country's democratic advantage over many of its regional neighbors, particularly totalitarian Azerbaijan.

While there is still much to do to solve the consequences of Azerbaijan's devastating aggression, and despite all existing regional challenges, the Karabakh government is determined to strive toward a safer, stronger and more prosperous republic for its people. Artsakh is a viable state -- ready and capable to assume its international responsibilities. The people of Artsakh deserve the same rights and freedoms as everyone else. The world community should welcome our new democracy into the family of nations by recognizing the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

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PRESS RELEASE

April 11, 2013

**The Maine House and Senate Passed Joint Resolution Supporting the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
Legislature Urges the U.S. Government to Support the Independence**

AUGUSTA, Maine — On April 10, 2013, the Members of the 126th Legislature of the State of Maine passed a joint Resolution on Artsakh independence. Introduced and cosponsored by Representatives Scott Hamann, Drew Gattine and Sara Gideon, the Resolution HP-987 urges the President and Congress of the United States to recognize Artsakh's independence.

The document also encourages and supports "the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's continuing efforts to develop as a free and independent nation ... to guarantee its citizens those rights inherent in a free and independent society" and praises Artsakh's "constructive involvement with the international community's efforts to reach a just and lasting solution to security issues" within the South Caucasus region.

Artsakh Representative to the US expressed gratitude to the members of the Maine Legislature for adopting the document. "We are grateful to the Legislature of the state of Maine for promoting global freedom and democracy by supporting Artsakh's independence. This Resolution reiterates that Artsakh's aspiration for freedom will eventually be recognized by the broader international community", Avetisyan said.

Maine became another state of the United States that supports Artsakh's independence. The Resolution stressed the democratic achievements in Artsakh's, and stressed that its aspiration for freedom against tyranny had been supported by the U.S. Senate Resolution in 1989. Maine legislatures also underlined the legitimacy of declaring the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

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MEDIA Alert: FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL PUBLISHED ARTICLE COMPARING DICTATORSHIP IN NORTH KOREA AND AZERBAIJAN

DATE: April 16, 2013

TO: Media Colleagues

RE: FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL PUBLISHED OPED COMPARING DICTATORSHIP IN NORTH KOREA AND AZERBAIJAN

On April 16, 2013, Foreign Policy Journal published an article by Aram Avetisyan.

Named "In Search of Effective Deterrence", the publication covers major risks for renewed war in the South Asia and the South Caucasus.

In both cases, bellicose statements and aggressive rhetoric by regimes of Kim Jong Un of North Korea and Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan pose the major threat to regional stability and security.

The full text of the article is provided below:

Foreign Policy Journal

In Search of Effective Deterrence

by Aram Avetisyan, April 16, 2013

The recent threats of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un about attacks against the U.S. and its ally South Korea continues to be a source of global concern. A new wave of aggressive rhetoric elevated tensions to a high level in the South Asian region, including a risk of nuclear strikes. Regardless how serious those threats may be, they do threaten stability and regional security, leading to escalation and increasing possibility of war.

The irresponsible and unpredictable North Korean totalitarian regime continuously uses escalating rhetoric as a political instrument blackmailing the world. The aggressive rhetoric and threats of new war have become more pronounced since the young dictator of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, came to power after the death of his father in 2012.

American and international figures have reacted. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called Pyongyang's threats of military action against South Korea and the United States "provocative, dangerous and reckless." U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (originally from South Korea) described the North Korean behavior as being on a "collision course with the international community". Condemnations came from many other countries as well.

At the other side of Asia, in Azerbaijan, another dictator who also inherited power from his father, Ilham Aliyev, continuously uses bellicose rhetoric and threatening to restart a war against its neighboring Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. Aliyev and his regime are known as one of the most corrupted in the world.[1] Fueled by revenues from oil production, Aliyev and family have stashed their cash in the offshore zones.[2]

Like North Korea's, Azerbaijan's warmongering should not be ignored since a new war in the South Caucasus could also turn quite catastrophic. Taking into consideration the arms build-up launched by Azerbaijan and its continuing weapons accumulation, a new war could devastate a whole region and cause dire humanitarian consequences for all sides of the conflict.

If the international community desires peace and stability in the South Caucasus, it should take Azerbaijan to task for North Korean style rhetoric. Azerbaijan's Aliyev should also stop his hate rhetoric, and prepare his country for peace by ruling out military solutions and refraining from threats to use force as urged by the United States and the rest of international community.[3] Otherwise, while brandishing their arms, dictators of all kinds will continue to blackmail the world while seeking to keep their compatriots captive in their dictatorial systems.

Notes

[1] Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), "OCCRP Names Aliyev "Person Of The Year", December 31, 2012:<https://reportingproject.net/occrp/index.php/en/ccwatch/cc-watch-indepth/1772-occrp-names-aliyev-qperson-of-the-year-q->

[2] "Offshore Companies Link Corporate Mogul, Azerbaijan's President", RFR/RL, April 04, 2013: http://www.rferl.org/content/azerbaijan-aliyev-family-offshore-businesses/24947900.html?fb_action_ids=508187335906797&fb_action_types=og.recommends&fb_source=timeline_og&action_object_map=%7B%22508187335906797%22%3A481670968554894%7D&action_type_map=%7B%22508187335906797%22%3A%22og.recommends%22%7D&action_ref_map=%5B%5D; See also "Pricey real estate deals in Dubai raise questions about Azerbaijan's president", The Washington Post, March 5, 2010:<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/04/AR2010030405390.html>

[3] U.S. State Department, April 8, 2013:<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2013/04/207193.htm#AZERBAIJAN> See also: OSCE Minsk Group, Statement by the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, December 6, 2012:<http://www.osce.org/mg/97882>

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